

SF Soldier honored for heroic actions in Böblingen

By Carola Meusel
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Sp. Willie Smith was honored by the Böblingen Police Department during a ceremony Aug. 2 for rescuing an elderly couple from an apartment fire in July.

Rudi Denzer, chief of the Böblingen Police Department, awarded Smith, a Soldier assigned to Headquarters Support Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, Airborne, with a certificate of appreciation and the official coat of arms of the state of Baden-Württemberg Police, to include a declaration in English, during the ceremony.

The event was attended by German police officials, as well as by Maj. Gen. Michael Repass, Special Operations Command Europe commander; his wife

Linda; Lt. Col. Isaac Peltier, 1/10th SFG(A), commander; Capt. Steven Payne, Headquarters Support Company commander and fellow Special Forces Soldiers.

They all came to recognize their comrade who selflessly supported the Böblingen Police during a fire rescue mission at Herrschaftsgartenstrasse in Böblingen on July 3.

According to the Böblingen Police, the fire began in a wooden shed located between two houses at Herrschaftsgartenstrasse 10 and 12. Both houses, as well as the adjacent buildings, had to be evacuated.

The timbered house at Herrschaftsgartenstrasse 10 completely burnt down.

See Soldier honored on page 4



Sp. Willie Smith, a budget technician assigned to Headquarters Support Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, assisted Böblingen policemen in rescuing an elderly couple from a house fire on July 3. Smith was honored by the Böblingen Police Department in a ceremony Aug. 2.

Susan Huseman

Clare Buckley, 6, rocks a hoola hoop during the closing ceremonies of the CYS Services summer camp program Aug. 18. While the camp runs through Aug. 26, camp counselors had to return to the States a week earlier for school.

Photos by Birgit Thompson

Aidan Quinn (from left), 6, and Michael Ellsworth, 7, burn off some energy with inflatable body boppers. Kate Hudson, 7, opts for a princess face painting design.

Summer send-off

Children and staffers participating in USAG Stuttgart CYS Services' summer camp program celebrated the end of a "Rockin' Summer 2011" Aug. 18 with a day of fun and sun on the Panzer Kaserne sports field. The event brought the pre-kindergarten and after school camps together to say goodbye to the camp counselors, who returned to the U.S. Aug. 20.

INSIDE
THIS
EDITION

Page 12

Crime-cracking kids clear up conundrum
Is rifling through a hotel room looking for evidence your idea of fun? It was for 30 kids who participated in a "CSI" EDGE program offered by Stuttgart CYS Services.

Page 14

Chapel remains proof of king's eternal love
Locals say the Sepulchral Chapel on Württemberg Hill, with its symbolism and scenic views, is one of the most romantic places in the state of Baden-Württemberg.

ACAP: supporting Soldier career success

By Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

Installation Management Command
commander

The decision to transition out of uniform is as important as the initial decision to put it on. That is why the Army provides the Army Career and Alumni Program and is working to make it even more effective.

ACAP delivers transition and job assistance services to Soldiers to support them in making informed career decisions.

Pre-separation counseling, Veteran Affairs benefits briefings and Department of Labor Transition Assistance Program workshops are available to separating and retiring active component Soldiers, demobilizing Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, family members, retirees, and civilians affected by BRAC, reduction in force or global realignment.

A 2010 in-depth review of ACAP

found that while Soldiers are allowed to use ACAP services up to two years before retirement or one year before separation, they do not always have leadership support in doing more than the minimum required by law, which is attending the pre-separation briefing no later than 90 days before separation.

However, just meeting the letter of the law is too little, too late. The more Soldiers are able to use ACAP services, the more successful their transitions.

Based on the study results and guidance from the vice chief of staff, over the next few months ACAP will implement an enhanced transition program model focused on helping Soldiers develop and put into action individual transition plans.

Under this choice-based, results-oriented model, Soldiers will have the opportunity to spend up to 60-70 hours accessing ACAP resources. The Transition Assistance Program workshop will also be updated to incorporate development of the individual transition plan.

A 12-month time frame is designed to minimize conflict with unit mission requirements, while enabling Soldiers to take full advantage of ACAP resources.



Lt. Gen. Lynch

When Soldiers take off the uniform, we want them to know they made the right choice for themselves, their careers and their families.

About four out of 10 eligible Soldiers who start ACAP decide to reenlist or join the National Guard or Reserves, while others need to get a solid start preparing for the next phase of their careers: going to school, starting a new job or starting a business.

ACAP is a commander's program. Soldiers will take off the uniform at some point, whether through separation or retirement, and it is up to leaders to take care of them until the very last day. This includes supporting their active participation in ACAP, and if a Soldier decides to separate, making sure no stigma is attached to his or her decision.

It is smart business to support Soldiers' use of ACAP. In FY10 the Army spent more than \$500 million in unemployment compensation for vet-

erans, a number expected to rise even higher in FY11.

More to the point, it is the right thing to do.

Transition is stressful under the best of circumstances, and right now, Soldiers are facing a tough job market. We have to equip them to take the skills and values they learned in the Army and translate them into success in the next phase of their careers.

When Soldiers take off the uniform, we want them to know they made the right choice for themselves, their careers and their families. It's the least we can do for their service and sacrifices.

Editor's Note: New guidance on the transition program is expected during the first quarter of fiscal year 2012.

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www.stuttgart.army.mil

Cost of drinking, driving can exceed bar tab

Commentary by

Army Capt. Aaron L. Lancaster

Stuttgart Legal Center

Ever wonder about the true cost of that last beer, mixed drink or glass of wine at dinner?

You may think it only costs the €3.50 that the menu indicates, but if you drive drunk the actual cost may be substantially more than expected.

Consider this hypothetical case. Spc. Snuffy has three years of service, passed his promotion board, and will be up for E5 next month. As an E5, Spc. Snuffy's base pay will jump from \$2,123 to \$2,337.

After passing the board, Spc. Snuffy goes out to celebrate and consumes two extra drinks. On his way home, the Polizei pull him over and administer a breathalyzer. Spc. Snuffy blows a Blood Alcohol Content of .11 percent.

As a result, Spc. Snuffy is given a field grade Article 15 and issued a general officer memorandum of reprimand, which is permanently filed in his official military personnel file.

At his Article 15 hearing, Spc. Snuffy, due to his level of intoxication (over twice the German legal limit), is found guilty. The punishment includes a reduction in rank from E4 to E1, the forfeiture of one-half month's pay for two months, and extra duty for 45 days. The forfeiture alone will cost Spc. Snuffy \$1,466.

Pvt. Snuffy will likely spend the next 12 months climbing back from E1 to E4, and then another eight to 12 months until he can sit for the E5 promotion board. As he works back up to his former rank of E4, the reduced pay will cost him roughly \$7,590. In the next eight months, while Spc. Snuffy waits to take the board again, he will lose an additional \$2,989 in pay. The total cost to Spc. Snuffy in the first two

The next time you decide to have that extra drink, it may cost you considerably more than you think.

years alone will be \$12,045 or \$6,022.50 per drink.

As if that wasn't bad enough, an OMPF-filed GOMOR can greatly reduce a Soldier's ability to be promoted to E7 and beyond.

Assuming that Spc. Snuffy makes E7 but is then passed over for E8 due to the GOMOR, he will eventually retire as an E7.

What difference would this make in retirement for a 20-year career? At a difference of \$213 a month (\$2,556 a year) over the course of a post-military, 35 year life expectancy, Spc. Snuffy will lose \$89,460. The total loss to Spc. Snuffy for his extra two drinks comes to \$101,505 or \$50,752.50 per drink.

Consume that last beer and you could be Spc. Snuffy.

Larger and stronger beers in Germany, along with deeper glasses of wine, provide a dangerous combination resulting in over 60 DUIs for the Stuttgart military community in the last 12 months. Sadly, each of these DUIs was fully preventable, and the repercussions for many of the service members will continue to be felt into the indefinite future.

So remember, the next time you decide to have that extra drink, it may cost you considerably more than you think — for your wallet — and your career.



Sgt. Gabriel Warwick, of 554th Military Police Company, chops vegetables for the cold sandwich bar at the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Dining Facility on Panzer Kaserne Aug. 11.



Pvt. Kevin Keyes accepts a plate of food at the 1/10th SFG(A), Dining Facility on Panzer Kaserne Aug. 11. Recently all DFACs in Europe began serving healthier foods and using "Go for Green" signs to indicate how each food affects Soldier performance, as part of the U.S. Army Europe "Fueling the Team" program.

Health by stealth: Army DFACs swap in 'greener' menus

Story & photos by Brittany Carlson
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Over the past year, items have been disappearing from the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Dining Facility in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart.

French fries, sodas and hamburgers have been silently replaced by baked potato wedges, flavored water, chicken and fish. These subtle changes are part of the U.S. Army Europe "Fueling the Team," or UFTT program, designed to help Soldiers improve their performance and overall health.

"It's a program that is allowing Soldiers and civilian customers to make healthier choices," said Beverly Sowell, food program manager for U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart. "We just want them to be aware there are healthier options in the DFAC."

USAREUR dining facilities began officially implementing UFTT in May as part of the Soldier Fueling Initiative, an Army program that establishes healthy eating standards for Soldiers.

Both the 1/10th SFG(A), DFAC and Black Stallion Inn Dining Facility on Patch Barracks are now labeling foods using the "Go for Green" nutritional education program that began in U.S. Army dining facilities stateside earlier this year.

"Go for Green" placards in front of each dish tell Soldiers how the food will affect their performance: "green" foods should be eaten frequently, are high in protein and low in fat, and enhance performance. "Amber"—those foods that should be eaten occasionally—and "red"—those foods that should be eaten rarely—have increasingly higher amounts of fat and calories, and hinder performance.

In addition to using the color code, the 1/10th SFG(A), DFAC has stopped deep-frying and is replacing several "red" foods with healthier alternatives, such as swapping in frozen yogurt for ice cream.

"We've pushed it in subtly," said Staff Sgt. Derek Maak, assistant manager for the 1/10th SFG(A), DFAC. "We implemented a 10-day menu with mostly yellow and green [items] and fish three or four times a week."

Maak said the DFAC completes the fitness puzzle for service members, giving them fuel that complements their workout routines, instead of negating them.

"I've seen Soldiers work out constantly and they're

physically fit, but ... they don't understand what it does to them when they eat nine or 10 eggs in the morning," he said. "If we offer them a healthy alternative, at least we're doing our job to try and help them out."

The new menu is appreciated by diners such as Steve Kirkpatrick, a contractor for the 1/10th, who has been eating at the DFAC for two years.

"I like the fact that, since I eat here all the time anyway, I can have more of what I like," said Kirkpatrick, who avoids eating fried foods at home. "There are more choices now than there were before."

The Patch DFAC has also made some changes; the cooks prepare a vegetarian entrée each day, and a new cold sandwich bar is available twice a week.

Scott Shimon, Patch DFAC manager, said he has already received feedback from patrons on the new "Go for Green" signs. "We've had quite a few comments saying people really enjoy the food knowledge; it's helping them out," he said.

The quest for providing Soldiers with better nutrition and education began in February 2011, when USAREUR Commander Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, then deputy commanding general at the U.S. Army's Training and Doctrine Command, began the Soldier Fueling Initiative to help newly-enlisted Soldiers form healthier eating habits. The SFI was implemented at 12 U.S. Army TRADOC installations, where Soldiers attend Initial Military Training. Dining facilities there eliminated sodas, deep-fried items and sweets altogether, based on a 28-day menu created by the Joint Culinary Center of Excellence in Fort Lee, Va.

Once Soldiers leave IMT, they can make their own meal choices using the "Go for Green" color coding system with an array of healthier options available at dining facilities like those in USAG Stuttgart.

"We're not telling them what to eat; there are more healthy food choices," Sowell said. "When they get to a permanent party [assignment], those same healthy options are there for them ... which will affect their body and how they perform."

Note: The 1/10th SFG(A), DFAC recently took first place in the small garrison category in the Installation Management Command and U.S. Army Europe 2011 Philip A. Connelly Awards Competition, part of the Army Food Service Program. The staff will compete at the Department of Army level in November.

News & Notes

College alumni wanted

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart School Liaison Office seeks college alumni to support its second annual college fair scheduled for Oct. 4 on Patch Barracks.

Participate by representing your alma mater and let high school students know what your school has to offer.

For additional information and specific requirements, contact Wayne "Joe" Holder at wayne.holder@eur.army.mil or 430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465.

Mentorship program helps Soldiers with professional growth

The Army Mentorship Program is a voluntary, web-based program that promotes mentorship by linking mentors and mentees and providing training videos and literature that teaches the concepts of mentorship.

Army mentorship is the voluntary and developmental relationship that exists between a person of greater experience and a person of lesser experience that is characterized by mutual trust and respect. Studies have shown that mentoring relationships can help individuals with personal and professional growth by improving their leadership and interpersonal and technical skills.

More information about the Army Mentorship Program is available at www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/mentorship.

Real Warriors needs Facebook fans

Real Warriors is seeking 400 Facebook volunteers to spread the message that reaching out is a sign of strength.

"Like" the Real Warriors Campaign (www.facebook.com/realwarriors), tell a Facebook friend, and spread the word that 24/7 resources are available for the military community, and that they work.

Real Warriors is a public education campaign designed to combat the stigma associated with seeking psychological health treatment and encourages service members to get appropriate treatment.

For more information, visit www.real-warriors.net.

Comprehensive Soldier Fitness extended to family members

Family members now have the opportunity to participate in the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program by taking the Revised Family Global Assessment Tool and self-development modules.

The GAT is available to family members registered in DEERS. They can log on from any computer with an internet connection at <https://www.sft.army.mil/SFTFamily>. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. As an incentive, the Exchange will honor a coupon for a free sandwich at installation Subway Restaurants for six months past its Aug. 31 expiration date.

Soldier honored

Continued from page 1

The home at Herrschaftsgartenstrasse 12 is still inaccessible. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Smith, along with a friend, was on his way home to Panzer Kaserne from the Böblingen city festival, when he noticed the fire at around 3:45 a.m. While Smith ran into the buildings to knock on doors and to inform the residents about the fire, his friend immediately called the police.

"When I saw the fire, my first thought was to run into the buildings to ensure that everybody was aware of what's happening," Smith said.

Meanwhile, 20 to 30 people gathered outside the burning buildings. Some were residents who managed to exit their apartments, and others were curious onlookers.

When the first policemen arrived, they questioned residents and learned that an elderly couple in their 70s, who lived on the first floor of Herrschaftsgartenstrasse 12, was missing. Two police officers and a police volunteer ran into the building.

Smith followed them without being prompted.

"The first time I realized that somebody followed us, was inside the burning house," said Jörg Schilling, police chief inspector of the Böblingen police department. "It doesn't happen very often that people support us during a mission. Therefore, it was a great experience for me and my colleagues."

As for Smith, his first instinct was



Susan Huseman

Moments after Spc. Willie Smith rescued an elderly man from a fire at Herrschaftsgartenstrasse 12 in Böblingen on July 3, the roof of the adjacent building (Herrschaftsgartenstrasse 10) caved in.

to run into the building and help.

"I didn't think about myself. I was only thinking about those people inside that building," he said.

By the time Smith and the police entered the house, the thick smoke was making it hard to breathe and see. With some difficulty, the rescue team found the couple.

According to the police, the man was extremely confused and his wife had trouble getting out of bed.

Smith escorted the man out of the apartment and down the stairs to leave the burning building as fast as possible. Because the man was handicapped, Smith's assistance was crucial in res-

cuing the husband and wife in a timely manner. With Smith's support, the couple was able to escape. As they exited the building, the roof of Herrschaftsgartenstrasse 10 came down.

Other emergency services arrived on the scene shortly after the couple was rescued from the building and escorted to a safe haven.

"Because of Smith's courage and brave commitment, the rescue mission of the police was much faster and prevented any serious injuries of the affected persons," said Denzer, the chief of the Böblingen Police Department.

Smith is a native from Atlanta, Ga., and arrived in Stuttgart in April. The

father of three children is assigned to the Headquarters Support Company as a budget technician. Smith has been with the Army for four years. His last assignment was in Kuwait, where he was deployed as a budget analyst for 12 months.

Capt. Steven Payne, the Headquarters Support Company commander, described Smith as a "great Soldier and example for all his fellow comrades, who holds up the Army values by exhibiting selfless service."

"That is exactly what characterizes a Soldier: the need to help others. It's an awesome feeling having one of my Soldiers honored here today. Smith's actions demonstrate our commitment to work hand-in-hand with our German neighbors," Payne said.

After receiving his certificate, Smith addressed the guests and thanked all of them for attending the ceremony and for the honors. Smith said he did not expect them.

"I simply was at the right place at the right time," he said.

Modest words for a brave Soldier, who, despite obvious danger, put his own fear aside to help others.

According to Denzer, that doesn't happen too often in today's world. "Most people are not that concerned about other people's destiny."

"I am so glad that we have such courageous people like Spc. Smith amongst our American friends, who go into harm's way in order to support others," he said.

Change your world: Submit improvement ideas to AFAP

By Brittany Carlson

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Have ideas on how the Department of the Army can improve the quality of life for service members, DA civilians and their families?

If so, now is the time to submit them for the next Army Family Action Plan conference, to be held in November in U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart. Issues are due by Nov. 5.

"It's a way to change policy ... and enhance quality of life for Soldiers and their families," said Lisa Ordukaya, USAG Stuttgart AFAP manager.

Although AFAP is an Army program, the conference in USAG Stuttgart — a joint services community — will discuss issues submitted by all service members, and have volunteer delegates representing each branch of service.

Community members can participate by identifying issues in which they see room for improvement in the military community and submitting them online at www.stuttgart.army.mil (click on "Submit 2012 AFAP issues") or www.stuttgartmwr.com (click on "Army Community Service," then "Army Family Action Plan").

Hard copies of the issue forms are located in AFAP issue boxes throughout the garrison in facilities such as post offices, and Exchange Service facilities.

AFAP is not designed to address local issues, such as facility operating hours or customer service complaints, Ordukaya said. These types of issues should be submitted through the Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE, system on the garrison website (www.stuttgart.army.mil).

"They'll get immediate results with ICE because [managers] have to respond in 72 hours," she said.

The goal of the AFAP conference is to brainstorm solutions for issues that can affect the entire Army family or Defense Department.

"Think broad, think big. No idea is a bad idea," Ordukaya said.

Potential issue topics include Wounded Warrior benefits, single Soldier quality of life, and surviving family member benefits. Some installations may have "best practices" that can be made available to others through AFAP, she added.

No matter the topic, every issue submitted will be addressed by the garrison commander.

"Your quality of life issues matter, and we are going to prioritize them, and we are going to send them up to leadership," Ordukaya said.

Issues that cannot be resolved at the garrison level are sent to the regional AFAP conference and on to the Department of the Army conference, when applicable.

"Although our commander will review all AFAP issue submissions, our goal is to hear him say, 'This one has to be pushed up to the regional level for reso-

lution,'" she said. "When those issues are pushed up to the regional level, we want the same response: 'Those issues need to go to Department of Army.' This is ... where the changes can be made and implemented."

Since AFAP was established in 1983, it has resulted in 117 legislative changes, 162 DOD or DA policy changes and 178 improved programs or services, according to the DA Headquarters.

These include the distribution of Montgomery GI Bill benefits to dependents in 2009 and extending Tricare medical coverage for transitional survivor spouses in 2010.

In addition to submitting issues, active duty service members, reservists, retirees, civilians, family members and youth can participate in the AFAP conference by applying to be a delegate. Delegates discuss the issues submitted, select those they believe are the most important, and propose a local solution or submit it to a higher-level conference. Volunteers are also needed to be conference facilitators, recorders, transcribers, or issue support personnel.

Civilian dress is required for all attendees.

For more information on AFAP issues submitted to the Department of the Army for action, visit www.myarmyonesource.com, and click on "Family Programs," then the AFAP issue link

For more information on the USAG Stuttgart AFAP conference, call 431-3643/civ. 07031-15-3643.



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On September 11, 2001, Americans woke to face one of the most challenging times in our history. We cannot forget that horrific day—nor the sacrifices that the men and women in uniform and their families make every day.



Photo credit: U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Brian Aho

The Pentagon Memorial

Commemorating those who died on American Airlines Flight 77 and in the Pentagon

Army-wide vigilance contributes to the defense of
our Nation and our Army.

Misbehavior on DoDDS buses will not be tolerated

**Department of Defense Dependents
Schools-Europe**

Good order among students on a bus is fundamental to safety. Commonly known as the “bus discipline problem,” what’s really at stake is the effect that a lack of good order has on every student’s safety. Discipline isn’t the problem. The real problem is safety, because bad discipline results in an unsafe operation.

Safe student transportation is one of Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe’s highest concerns.

DODDS-Europe has high standards for mechanically sound vehicles and qualified, trained drivers, two of the three parts that make up the formula for safe school bus operations. The third and equally vital part that completes the formula is safe student behavior on the bus.

The most serious effect of student misbehavior is its impact on the bus driver. Driving in European traffic conditions demands the driver’s full attention and absolute concentration. Anything that diverts attention or breaks concentration, however momentary, can have dangerous, even fatal, consequences. Consider this: When the driver looks in the rearview mirror to identify and correct student misbehavior, who is driving the bus?

The direct cause and effect relationship between behavior and safety on the bus underlies DODDS-Europe’s policy and program for managing student behavior. A joint working group of school principals, education and transportation officials, school liaison officers and European Congress of American Parents, Teachers, and Students representatives conducted an in-depth study of the topic and how to manage it. The working group over-



Photos.com

Safe student transportation is one of DODDS-Europe’s highest concerns.

hauled the process, clearly defining roles and responsibilities, streamlining procedures and making them consistent, simplifying and standardizing the rules; and creating a universal table of consequences.

DODDS-Europe implemented the revisions during the fourth quarter of last school year.

Some key points about DODDS-Europe’s policy and procedures are these:

Because misbehavior by even one student creates an unsafe environment for all, the rules will be strictly enforced.

Parents (including sponsors or guardians) are responsible for their children’s behavior on the bus. Defense Department policy prohibits hiring adults for the primary purpose of supervising student behavior and enforcing discipline on school buses. Parents must teach their children proper behavior and ensure they follow the rules.

School principals will take disciplinary action. Riding school buses is a privilege that may be suspended

or revoked when a student does not behave in a safe and proper manner.

Suspension or revocation of bus privileges does not relieve the student of attending school. Parents must make the necessary arrangements.

The table of consequences (available from your school or through the school liaison officer) has four categories of infractions in ascending order of severity, with disciplinary action also following an increasing penalty scale.

The four categories are Minor Misconduct (e.g., standing while the bus is in motion); Serious Infractions (e.g., damage, theft or pilfering); Severe Offenses (e.g., fighting); and Criminal or Illegal Acts (e.g., making a bomb threat).

Penalties begin with an oral/written warning for the first instance in the minor misconduct category, increasing to a one- to five-day suspension for the second instance and culminating in sus-

pension for the remainder of the school year upon a fifth referral. Similarly, an increasing scale of suspensions is applied to serious infractions, severe offenses and criminal or illegal acts, with the last also referred to military installation commanders for other/additional action as appropriate.

Parents must ensure that their children understand and follow the rules for riding the school bus. Commanders at all levels should also be familiar with the rules and table of consequences.

While school principals administer DODDS-Europe’s policy and program for student school bus behavior management, success requires everyone’s backing, cooperation and support, including parents, sponsors and guardians, commanders and other military community officials.

It’s all about a safe ride for students to and from school every day.

DoDDS-E School Bus Rules

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Obey the driver or adult. | 6. Do not put anything out of the window. |
| 2. Enter and exit the bus safely, and always show your bus pass. | 7. Remain quiet and do not disturb the driver or others. |
| 3. Stay properly seated and use seat belts when available. | 8. No profanity, indecency, smoking, prohibited items or vandalism. |
| 4. Keep your hands, feet and other body parts to yourself. | 9. Do not eat, drink, or chew gum. |
| 5. Do not throw things. | 10. Be responsible, be safe. |

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Teens ‘venture’ outdoors with coed Scouting group

By Tanya Fogg Young
Special to The Citizen

Stuttgart area teens on the hunt for high adventure activities such as rock climbing and ropes courses, and who have a passion for volunteerism, may want to take a look at Venture Crew 44.

The 16-member Venture Crew 44 is a group of young men and women in the Stuttgart military community who are part of Venturing, a coed leadership and service development program of the Boy Scouts of America for those ages 13 (if they have completed eighth grade) to 20 years.

Originally part of the Boy Scouts’ Exploring Division, Venturing came into its own in 1998 and is now the organization’s fastest-growing program, according to the Boy Scouts of America’s website.

Scouting experience is not a prerequisite for membership in the Venture Crew, but most of the nine young women and seven young men who make up Venture Crew 44 are also still involved with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, according to Hope Bird, an advisor, whose daughter, Carolyn, is the Crew’s president.

“I joined because I loved the idea of high adventure activities with all of my friends,” said Carolyn Bird, 16, a Patch High junior and 11-year member of Girl Scouts.

“I really enjoy all the activities the Crew does — hiking, camping, rock climbing, archery, high ropes courses — and the fact that I get to do these activities with my friends, schoolmates and peers makes it even better,” she said.

Venturing’s emphasis on high adventure helps provide team-building opportunities, new meaningful experiences, practical leadership application and lifelong memories to its young adult members, according to the Scouting website.

That high-adventure focus and the social interaction of the coed group were main draws for her decision to join Venture Crew, said member Rachel Bentley, 16, a Patch High junior who said that she has never before been involved in Scouting.

Earlier this year, the group led a community geocaching egg hunt as a fun way of recruiting members

“I really enjoy all the activities the Crew does — hiking, camping, rock climbing, archery, high ropes courses ...

Carolyn Bird, 16
Venture Crew 44 president

and teaching participants how to use a GPS.

For Patch High junior Matthew Watson, a Boy Scout since sixth grade, Venturing’s appeal is two-fold.

“Venture Crew is focused on events and hanging out with more people your age,” said Watson, 17, who is working on the esteemed Boy Scouts Eagle rank, the group’s highest achievement.

“Having the boys and girls together is more fun definitely. Girls add more maturity to the group and the guys are watching what they do around them,” he said with a chuckle.

The Venturing program also encourages youth to participate in community service and teach what they have learned to others.

Venture Crew 44 has participated in a variety of service projects in the Stuttgart community, including the German-American Women’s Club Stuttgart Pfennig Bazaar, the Stuttgart Community Spouses Club Spring Bazaar, and the Cub Scouts Alaska Days and Twilight Camp events.

“All Scouting tries to give back to the community,” said Patch High senior Anna von Fahnstock, a Girl Scout since kindergarten who is currently working on her Girl Scout Gold Award, the organization’s highest achievement.

To join or get more information about Venture Crew 44, contact crew president Carolyn Bird at birdcrew@earthlink.net.

Stuttgart military community Scouting opportunities

- Cub Scout Packs** — for boys aged 6 to 11, or in the first through fifth grade.
- Panzer Kaserne**
- Pack 44: E-mail panzerpack44@gmail.com
- Robinson Barracks**
- Pack 113: E-mail bncbeisner@yahoo.com
 - Stuttgart III Ward (The Latter-Day Saints) Pack 119: E-mail randal.potter.ctr@africom.mil
- Patch Barracks**
- Pack 324: E-mail cspack324@yahoo.com
- Kelly Barracks**
- Pack 154: to register for this Pack, e-mail Gloria@outlandgames.net
- Boy Scout Troops** — for boys 11 years old, or boys who have completed the fifth grade or earned the Arrow of Light Award and are at least 10 years old, but are not yet 18 years old.
- Robinson Barracks**
- Stuttgart III Ward (The Latter-Day Saints) Troop 119: E-mail Hardingnh@gmail.com
 - Troop 113: E-mail kssanapoe2@yahoo.com
- Panzer Barracks**
- Troop 44 website: www.panzer44.com
- Kelley Barracks**
- Troop 154 website: <http://boyscouttroop154.googlepages.com>
- Patch Barracks**
- Troop 324 website: www.troop324.de
- Girl Scouting** — For Girl Scouting information, contact the registrar at stuttgart-girlscouts@yahoo.com or visit the Stuttgart Girl Scouts website at www.usagso-na.org/stuttgart.

For additional information on Scouting activities throughout Europe, visit the Transatlantic Council website at www.tac-bsa.org.

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Please provide contact information. ICE comment cards can also be picked up and submitted at ICE drop boxes on every installation.

Price assumes command of DISA Europe

By Navy Lt. Katie Eames
Defense Information Systems Agency
Europe

Col. Richard Price took command of Defense Information Systems Agency Europe from the outgoing commander Col. Elizabeth Bierden during a change of command ceremony held Aug. 4 on Patch Barracks' Washington Square.

Lt. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett, DISA director, conducted the ceremony.

Family members, friends, colleagues, and service members were in attendance to bid farewell to the outgoing commander and welcome the new one.

Distinguished guests included Larry Huffman, DISA's principal director of operations; Navy Rear Adm. Charles Martoglio, U.S. European Command chief of staff; Georges D'Hollander, general manager for NATO Consultation's Command and Control Agency; Brig. Gen. Charles Chiarotti, deputy commander for U.S. Marine Forces Africa and MARFOR Europe; Col. Bruce Crawford, 5th Signal Command commander; Fleet Master Chief Petty Officer Roy Maddocks, U.S. European Command senior enlisted advisor, and the DISA Europe command staff.

Price comes to DISA Europe from his previous assignment as the senior



Richard Herman

Col. Richard Price (left), new commander for Defense Information Systems Agency Europe, receives the DISA Europe colors from Lt. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett, DISA director, during the DISA Europe change of command ceremony Aug. 4.

executive assistant to director for the command, control, communication and computer systems directorate of the joint staff (J6).

Bierden served as the DISA Europe commander for two years and in her next assignment, she will be serving in Afghanistan as senior telecom advisor to the International Security

Assistance Force.

Pollett called Bierden "a true visionary."

"Beth was my direct representative to senior leaders in Europe, displaying sound judgment and leadership to set the conditions for our cyber environment on a global scale," he said. "Not only did Col. Bierden excel [in]

achieving her brigade's mission, but also [in] taking care of her people."

"Additionally, Beth ensured that her team continued to provide brilliant and unprecedented command, control, and computer support to USEUCOM, USAFRICOM, USCENTCOM, and NATO during [Operations] Odyssey Dawn, Unified Protector and Enduring Freedom," he added.

Pollett then discussed his high expectations and faith in the new commander.

"Col. Price is the perfect choice for this challenging and rewarding command," he said. "It is with great respect that I charge him with these responsibilities. Rich is a proven leader and combat veteran. His leadership presence and extraordinary reputation make him the right choice to command."

Pollett went on to address the new commander directly: "Rich, I know you are well-prepared for the tasks ahead. Your work ethic and experience speak for themselves."

Pollett had also had high acclaim for the DISA Europe organization itself.

"DISA Europe is an extraordinary command with a critical role in providing global strategic telecommunications and centralized enterprise data services to support USEUCOM, USAFRICOM, USCENTCOM, DOD and NATO during peacetime, contingencies, and war," he said.

Soldier ride commemorates 9/11, supports wounded warriors

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office

Members of the military community in Europe interested in commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9/11 while also supporting wounded warriors are invited to participate in a Community Soldier Ride at the Bostalsee Lake.

Soldier Ride is a Wounded Warrior Project™ initiative that provides rehabilitative cycling opportunities to help the newest generation of wounded warriors restore their physical and emotional well-being.

Fifty wounded warriors from the European theater will be participating in a three-day Soldier Ride that allows them to continue to rebuild their confidence and strength in a supportive environment.

This ride is the first European Soldier Ride sponsored by the WWP and it is being supported by the European Regional Medical Command's Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe.

The community ride on Sept. 11 is the culmination of the three-day Soldier Ride.

Organizers say it provides wounded warriors the opportunity to promote a positive message of recovery while also encouraging community members to ride alongside, support from the route sidelines or volunteer to assist with the event.

The Bostalsee Lake is approximately 20 kilometers from Baumholder. Registration and packet pick-up opens at 7:30 a.m. at the Freizeitzentrum Bostalsee, followed by an opening ceremony at 9 a.m. The ride begins at 9:30 with a choice of a four-mile or



Fred W. Baker III

Navy corpsman Petty Officer Daniel "Doc" Jacobs trains for a marathon using a handcycle. Soldier Ride organizers say that through the exhilaration of cycling, warriors embrace possibilities for the future in a supportive environment with fellow injured service members.

18-mile route, followed by a closing ceremony and a community picnic at 11:45 a.m.

Event coordinators are asking community mem-

bers to register online in order to help them determine the size of the crowd.

To register, go to www.soldierride.org/germany.

Local council supports retirees

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Retiree Council provides assistance to U.S. military retirees and their survivors with issues pertaining to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Social Security, and military pay and allowance. The Retiree Support Center, in Room 307, Building 2915, on Panzer Kaserne, is open on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon and 1-2:30 p.m., and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3:30 p.m.

To receive a quarterly newsletter, send an e-mail to usag-s.rsc@eur.army.mil.

Ramstein Welfare Bazaar Sept. 15-18

More than 140 vendors from across Europe will be at the 47th Annual Ramstein Welfare Bazaar Sept. 15-18 at Ramstein Air Base.

Stroller-friendly days are Thursday and Friday. Stroller parking will be available outside the hangars on Saturday and Sunday. A Kinder Korner will also be available for parents with infants and toddlers. Pets are not allowed. Only U.S. dollars, checks and credit cards are accepted. Euros are not accepted.

For more information, visit www.ramstein-bazaar.org.

SCSC holds welcome event

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club will host a welcome event Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. in the Swabian Special

Events Center on Patch Barracks. Community members are invited to the event to discover what SCSC has to offer.

For more information, e-mail scsc.memberships@gmail.com or visit www.stuttgartspousesclub.org.

Health clinic closed for training holidays

The U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart will close Aug. 26, and Sept. 2 and 5 for training and federal holidays.

In case of an emergency, call the Military Police at civ. 0711-680-114. For immediate health care needs, call the Nurse Advice Line at 0800-4759-2330.

ACS notables

Army Community Service has something for everyone.

• **Basic computer skills class:** Army Community Service will conduct a free class for all of those who are looking to improve upon their computer skills. The class will be held Sept. 12, 14 and 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. ACS volunteers will have priority. Advance registration is required.

• **Help empower military families in your organization with Family Readiness Leader training.** This training, intended for all services, is conducted the last Wednesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

This training is for organizational leaders who assist families.

• ACS is currently recruiting for a **English as a**

Back-to-school countdown

Böblingen Elementary School kindergarten teachers, Jeni L'Esperance (left) and Teresa Senna unpack teaching aids for "Everyday Mathematics," a new DODDS math curriculum, in L'Esperance's classroom Aug. 17. School begins Aug. 29. BEMS will hold a back-to-school open house for middle school students on Aug. 26 from 4-6 p.m. and for elementary students from 5-7 p.m.

Susan Huseman



Second Language volunteer instructor. For details send an e-mail to Daniel.C.Adams@eur.army.mil.

For more information, or to reserve a spot in a class, call 431-33362/07031-15-3362, stop by Army Community Service in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne or visit www.stuttgartmwr.com.

PWOC begins new season

Join the Stuttgart Area Protestant Women of the

Chapel for their fall Bible study kickoff. The Robinson Barracks event is scheduled for Sept. 6 from 9 a.m. to noon in the RB Chapel Annex; the Patch group will meet Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Religious Education Center, Building 2332, Patch Barracks.

Watch care will be provided for children up to 5 years old (bring snack and diapers). For more information, e-mail stuttgartpwoc@googlemail.com.

Patch Ski Club holds fall picnic

The Patch Ski club will hold its annual fall picnic Sept. 18 from 1-4 p.m. at Husky Field on Patch Barracks. Join the club and sign up for ski and recreational trips. The picnic is free for all new or renewing members, with a nominal fee for non-members and guests.

For more information, visit www.patchskiclub.com or friend the club on Facebook.

Eliminate debt with Financial Peace U

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office will offer Financial Peace University, a 13-week program designed to help families manage money more effectively and pay off debt.

The class starts Sept. 13 and will meet every Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Religious Education Center, Building 2332, on Patch Barracks. A donation for each family is requested (E4 and below are free). Child care is available upon request.

To sign up, or for more information, call civ. 0711-680-5193 or e-mail FPUstuttgart@yahoo.com.

ASAP training

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program will conduct annual civilian ASAP training for garrison supervisors Sept. 15 from 1-2 p.m. and for employees from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in Building 2948, Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, or to schedule on site training, call 431-2530/civ. 07031-15-2530.

Dirty dog?

An automated dog wash is available at the Auto Skills Center, Building 2926, Panzer Kaserne. The dog wash is open Tuesday through Friday from 1-9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 431-2555/civ. 07031-15-2555.

Send community-wide announcements to stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil.

Wasps, bees, hornets

All kind of creatures are protected by Germany's Nature Protection Law, even wasps, bees and hornets. Killing these insects without reason is prohibited.

To help prevent conflicts:

- Don't attack the bees, wasps or hornets, and avoid quick movements.
- Don't destroy the nest. Contact DPW Environmental Division or the garrison Fire Department.
- Be careful when gardening or playing outside. Perspiration attracts bees and wasps.
- Keep dumpsters closed and clean. If this is not possible, close the garbage bags tightly.
- Be careful when eating outdoors. Avoid open food/sweets, and cover leftover food and drinks.
- Attract and distract bees or wasps with other food by placing a glass filled with apple juice a safe distance away from you.
- Try this preventive measure: Wasps don't like strong smells. Use lemon slices with cloves or burn coffee powder.



USAG Stuttgart Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Division

Protect children’s vision with annual eye exams

By Wendy LaRoche
U.S. Army Public Health Command

One of the best ways to help children in school is to ensure their vision has been checked at least every two years by an eye care professional. Vision and eye health are key to a student’s ability to do well in the classroom and when studying at home.

Children with poor visual skills may struggle to read, have short attention spans, perform poorly in sports and develop low self-esteem. In most cases, unless a child complains about a vision problem, parents don’t ask questions concerning their vision. Research also demonstrates that children tend to not complain about subtle problems with their eyesight.

Some common signs that may indicate a problem with vision or eye health are tearing, squinting, unusual light sensitivity, eye redness or discharge, a jiggle in one or both eyes, persistent head turning, frequent headaches, droopy eyelids or a misalignment of the eyes.

As with any condition, earlier diagnosis leads to better outcomes. Other signs to look for are changes in your child’s academic performance, including trouble focusing on reading, reversals in writing and reading, and holding reading materials closer than normal. Talk with your child’s teacher and primary care physician, if you witness any of these signs.

If you suspect that your child may have a vision



www.photos.com

problem, make an appointment with an eye care professional, either an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Routine vision and health examinations are recommended, even for children who do not require vision correction.

The American Optometric Association recommends that all children receive a professional eye and vision examination at critical stages in their visual development. These critical stages are by 6 months of age, 3 years, before first grade and every other year between the ages of 6 and 18.

Tricare Prime, Standard and Extra all cover vision screenings for children up to age 6 during well-child exams. For school-aged children beyond 6 years of age, generally Tricare covers yearly exams for active-duty families.

For more information on children’s eye health, visit www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/index.jsp or the American Optometric Association website at www.aoa.org.



Update DEERS

The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System is a worldwide, computerized database that helps determine who is eligible for military benefits, including Tricare.

Keeping your information updated in DEERS is key to receiving covered care on the German economy.

Uniformed services members are automatically registered in DEERS, however family members are not. Updates must be made in person at your local ID card-issuing facility.

Note that registering in DEERS is a separate step that must be completed before you can enroll into TRICARE Prime.

Update your contact information in DEERS by visiting the Beneficiary Web Enrollment website at www.tricare.mil/bwe, or by going to the nearest ID card-issuing facility (Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne).

You can also call civ. 001-800-538-9552 or 001-866-363-2883 or fax information updates to civ. 001-831-655-8317.

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Job Fair

Meet local employers, learn about local jobs and network at a community job fair scheduled for Sept. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The job fair, sponsored by U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Army Community Service and the Army Career and Alumni Program, is open to all U.S. ID cardholders. Applicants should bring resumes.

The fair will be held in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, call 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

AAFES/DeCA council meets Sept. 7

An AAFES/DeCA quarterly council meeting is scheduled for Sept. 7 in the Swabian Special Events Center from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Customer feedback can also be submitted by clicking on the ICE link on the garrison website at www.stuttgart.army.mil.

Take the Warrior Pride Challenge

Service members are invited to test their mettle at the Stuttgart Warrior Pride Challenge PT Pentathlon Sept. 15 at 6:45 a.m. at the Panzer Local Training Area.

Events include a one mile run, 100-yard water can carry, followed by a mile run and a 50-yard tire flip. Competitors will then move to a 25-meter grenade throwing event and rapid-fire shooting on the laser range.

The pentathlon and other Warrior Pride events are sponsored by the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program.

For more information and to register, call Marianne Campano or Howard Krout at 431-2530/3233/civ. 07031-15-2530/3233.

Are you 'That Guy?'

Comics on Duty team up with That Guy to present a free 90 minute comedy show Sept. 12 at 1 and 6 p.m. in the Patch Community Club.

The That Guy campaign uses humor to deliver a serious anti-binge drinking message with the goal of reducing excessive drinking among young servicemen. This production is not intended for anyone under 18.

For more information, call 430-2110/civ. 0711-680-2110.



Car pooling coming to AFRICOM

Salvatore Guarino (left) and Alexander Knapp, Total Maintenance Services contractors, install car pool reserved parking signs adjacent to Building 3312 on Kelley Barracks Aug. 16. Ten spaces are now reserved for AFRICOM personnel as part of an AFRICOM car pool initiative. Additionally, approximately 50 more parking spaces were created on Kelley Barracks by repainting parking space lines.

Susan Huseman

To find out more about the That Guy campaign, visit www.thatguy.com.

Donate, volunteer for Pfennig Bazaar

This year, the German American Women's Club will host its annual Pfennig Bazaar at the Liederhalle in downtown Stuttgart on Oct. 14 and 15. Last year, the bazaar raised over €100,000 in support of Stuttgart military community and German organizations.

Donation bins are now available outside the Patch Barracks sorting room (next to the Patch Thrift Shop, Building 2332) for round-the-clock donation drop-offs. To volunteer in the sorting room, contact the sorting room manager, Denise Stanley, at patchsortingroom@google-mail.com. For more information on the Pfennig Bazaar, contact Jennifer Kiwus at jake0961@yahoo.com.

Legal office hours

The Legal Assistance Office on Kelley Barracks has new business hours. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Thursday from 1-4:30 p.m.

Powers of attorney and notary services are only

available on a walk-in basis.

For more information, call 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.

Meet your School Liaison Officer

Get to know your School Liaison Officer and find out how he can help you and your family.

Stop by the Exchange on Panzer Kaserne Sept. 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Panzer Hotel on Sept. 13 from 6-7

p.m. or the Broadway Cafe on Kelley Barracks Oct. 5 from 1-2 p.m.

For more information, call the School Liaison Officer at 430-7465/civ. 0711-680-7465.

USAjobs schedules downtime Oct. 1-7

The Office of Personnel Management has announced that on Oct. 1 OPM will assume control of USAJOBS,

the federal government's official website for posting vacancy announcements and hiring information.

Previously, content management of USAJOBS was provided by a contractor.

From Oct. 1-7, as the new system is brought on line, USAJOBS will not be available to job seekers or hiring personnel.

During this time, according to the Civilian Human Resources Agency Europe Region website, no vacancy announcements will close, no new announcements will occur, and announcements that were opened before Sept. 26 will remain open until Oct. 10.

The downtime will affect all federal agencies.

Save money on utility taxes

By joining the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Utility Tax Avoidance Program, community members can save 19 percent on electricity and gas, and 7 percent on water.

For more information, visit www.stuttgartmwr.com or send an e-mail to UTAPreservation@EUR.army.mil.

For appointments, call 431-3451/civ. 07031-15-3451.

Send community-wide announcements to stuttgartmedia@eur.army.mil.

Back to school: Use caution when driving

Students return to school on Aug. 29. The morning commute period is 7:15-8:30 a.m. and the dismissal period is 2:30-2:45 p.m.

• Drivers should exercise extra caution during the period when school begins, especially during the morning commute and afternoon dismissal periods.

• All drivers must obey the posted speed limits.

• Be aware that children, especially those 12 years old and younger, are not always aware of their surroundings and assume that drivers will stop for them.

• Youngsters may dart into the road without first looking for traffic.

USAG STUTTGART

S F E T Y

CORNER

Young detectives practice critical thinking, solve crimes

By Steve Roark
Special to The Citizen

Some kids spend their summers playing baseball or swimming. Joseph Branch spent his summer rifling through a hotel room looking for evidence.

Branch is one of 30 youths who participated in CSI: Crime Scene, a new EDGE program offered by Stuttgart Child, Youth and School Services.

“The idea was developed by listening to our EDGE participants concerning new program ideas,” said Jackie D’Agostino, the CYS Services EDGE Program manager.

EDGE is an after-school program designed to help students “Experience, Develop, Grow and Excel” by participating in a wide variety of activities.

The new CSI class began with demonstrations from the Antiterrorism Awareness Office, where the participants learned about recognizing and reporting suspicious behavior. A variety of mock explosive devices were displayed.

Later, detectives from the Provost Marshal’s Office demonstrated the techniques and equipment used to collect evidence at a crime scene.

The demonstration concluded with a tour of the garrison’s new Mobile Command Post, a high-tech van loaded with thermal cameras and communication equipment.

By the second day, the aspiring detectives were put in the driver’s seat as they were asked to solve the case of a Soldier who mysteriously disappeared from the Panzer Hotel.

The case was a fictional script written by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Marketing Specialist Don Walker. He developed a story line designed to challenge the students to use their critical thinking skills as well as their imagination. Walker’s script



Caitlin Davis (from left), Jack Boling and Damon Tingey search for clues while comparing notes in a Panzer Hotel room during the CSI: Crime Scene program on Aug. 10. In the course of solving the case of a missing Soldier, the youngsters received training from professionals from the garrison Provost Marshal Office and the Antiterrorism Office.

Brittany Carlson

also required a lot of note taking by the young sleuths, something he hoped would help them prepare for the new school year. He said the kids surprised him by their ability to reconstruct events accurately.

“They were very detail oriented,” said Walker, “which is what this program is all about.”

To solve the case, the kids first conducted interviews with witnesses and potential suspects at the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center.

From there, the school-aged sleuths went to the Panzer Hotel where they searched a room that had been laced with clues provided by Walker. The student investigators, wearing rubber gloves, carefully collected items like a cell phone and a bloody shirt and placed them in evidence bags.

On the final day of the program, the flatfoots-in-training gathered to reveal what they thought had happened.

“It’s surprising,” said Walker, “Most of these kids were spot on.”

Sara Hartzell, 11, said solving this mystery was better than watching one on TV.

“It was great,” she said, “because not all of the clues were obvious.”

On a scale of 1 to 10, Joseph Branch, 11, gave the plot a 9.5 and said he wanted to sign up for future CSI cases.

D’Agostino said that the CSI course had about a 50 percent increase in enrollment over previous courses.

“And it held their interest from beginning to end,” she said.

She says much of the success of the CSI class was the result of so many people and organizations willing to support the concept with their time and by offering areas for the crime scenes.

And, what happened to the missing Soldier? It turned out he had concocted an elaborate charade to cover up his plan to desert the Army and become a mechanic ... and he might have gotten away with it if it hadn’t been for these meddling kids.



Brittany Carlson

No cushion goes unturned as EDGE CSI: Crime Scene participants look for clues in a Panzer Hotel room Aug. 10.

About EDGE

The CYS Services EDGE program partners with various other Family and MWR activities to offer after school activities for middle and high school-aged youth.

September classes include art classes such as tie dye and crochet, cooking, bowling, golf and tennis. The next CSI: Crime Scene program is scheduled for February.

All participants must be registered with CYS Services and sign up in advance at Parent Central Services in Building 2347, Patch Barracks.

For more information, call 430-7480/7488, civ. 0711-680-7480/7488, or contact the EDGE program coordinator at 430-8214/civ. 0711-680-8214.



Muppets Grover (from left), Katie and Elmo entertain a full house during the 2 p.m. performance of the Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families on Aug. 13 in the Patch Fitness Center.



Audience members show off their swag — Elmo twirly lights — during a Sesame Street/USO Military Experience for Families performance on Aug. 13.



Cookie Monster greets audience members at the first of two Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families performances on Aug. 13.

Sesame Street, USO bring Muppets to Stuttgart

Story & photos by Tanya Fogg Young
Special to The Citizen

Dealing with change and making new friends — military children know all too well about the anxiety that often comes with relocating to a new place.

That’s probably why the fears and excitement of Katie, a 6-year-old child facing a transfer to a new base due to her dad’s new military assignment, resonated with those who attended one of the three performances of the Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families held Aug. 13 and 14 in the Patch Fitness Center.

Katie, a Sesame Street character designed exclusively for the free, traveling United Services Organization tour, struck a chord with Amani Gibbs, 9, who was among the nearly 1,170 people who attended the three shows held recently in the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart community. Two shows were held on Saturday and one show on Sunday.

“It was really fun,” said Gibbs, who attended the first of two shows on Saturday with mother Sariah, father Sean, younger brother Tariq and baby sister Saniya. “I liked the part where Katie found out she was going to move to a new base and the song she sang about being happy about new experiences. It’s OK to be nervous when you’re just getting somewhere or leaving.”

Lonnie Cooper, USO tour manager, said Katie’s Sesame Street pals — characters

Cookie Monster, Elmo, Grover and Rosita — help the military child understand how to keep old friends and make new ones.

“The other characters help Katie, suggesting she e-mail and write letters to her friends she’s leaving behind and step up and say hello as the new kid at her new base,” Cooper said of the half-hour performance filled with high-energy songs and dance moves. “The kids recognize themselves in her character — laughing, clapping, singing and dancing.”

One of the local organizers of the USAG Stuttgart performances, Adria Williamson, said she hoped the youngsters in attendance truly understood that they are not alone as military children.

“For the toddlers and preschoolers, it was more a means of entertainment,” said Williamson, facility director of Kelley School Age Services. “But for those who were old enough to understand, I truly feel that the show gave them someone to relate to. Many of the parents said they were thankful for the opportunity because it was a free show and a chance for families to do something enjoyable and fun.”

In addition to the performance, there were giveaways for attendees. Among the goodies were red, white and blue USO bandanas, magnets, Elmo twirly lights, note pads, Picture Me books and the Talk, Listen, Connect DVD series that uses Sesame Street characters to explain issues including deployment to youngsters.

The show was a fun outing for Melissa Kerwood and her 17-month-old son Evan

Eugene. Kerwood said her 5-year-old son John William opted to stay home with his father — recently returned from temporary duty — instead of attending the show.

“John William attended the show here two years ago and loved the DVD we got, which he watched with his daddy,” Kerwood said. “The [DVD’s] message is that if mommy and daddy have to go away, it doesn’t mean that they don’t love you. He understands what his daddy does, why he leaves and he knows how to count the days until he returns.”

The current Sesame Street/USO tour kicked off in Alaska in late April and is scheduled to wrap up in Japan in November. The tour is expected to deliver nearly 150 shows on about 60 bases in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Korea, Turkey, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Spain and Japan.

“He understands what his daddy does, why he leaves and he knows how to count the days until he returns.”

Melissa Kerwood
Marine spouse



Württemberg Hill offers romance, scenic views of Stuttgart

Story & photo by Carola Meusel
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Most people in Stuttgart describe the Sepulchral Chapel on Württemberg Hill, located in the Stuttgart city district of Rotenberg, as a monument to eternal love.

The chapel was built by King Wilhelm I between 1820-24 for his beloved wife and Queen of Württemberg, Katharina Pawlowna. She was only 30 when she died in Stuttgart on Jan. 9, 1819.

After her death, Wilhelm ordered that the House of Württemberg family seat, the Wirtemberg Fortress, be torn down and a chapel built in its place to memorialize Katharina and prove his everlasting love for her.

The fortress had been built in 1083 by Konrad, the first Duke of Württemberg. It is located between idyllic vineyards, but and strategically overlooks the Neckar and Remstal valleys. According to Hans Kauz, a tour guide at the Sepulchral Chapel, there are not too many places in Stuttgart where people have such an impressive view of the city.

"This is one of Stuttgart's most beautiful places and worthy of kings and queens," Kauz said.

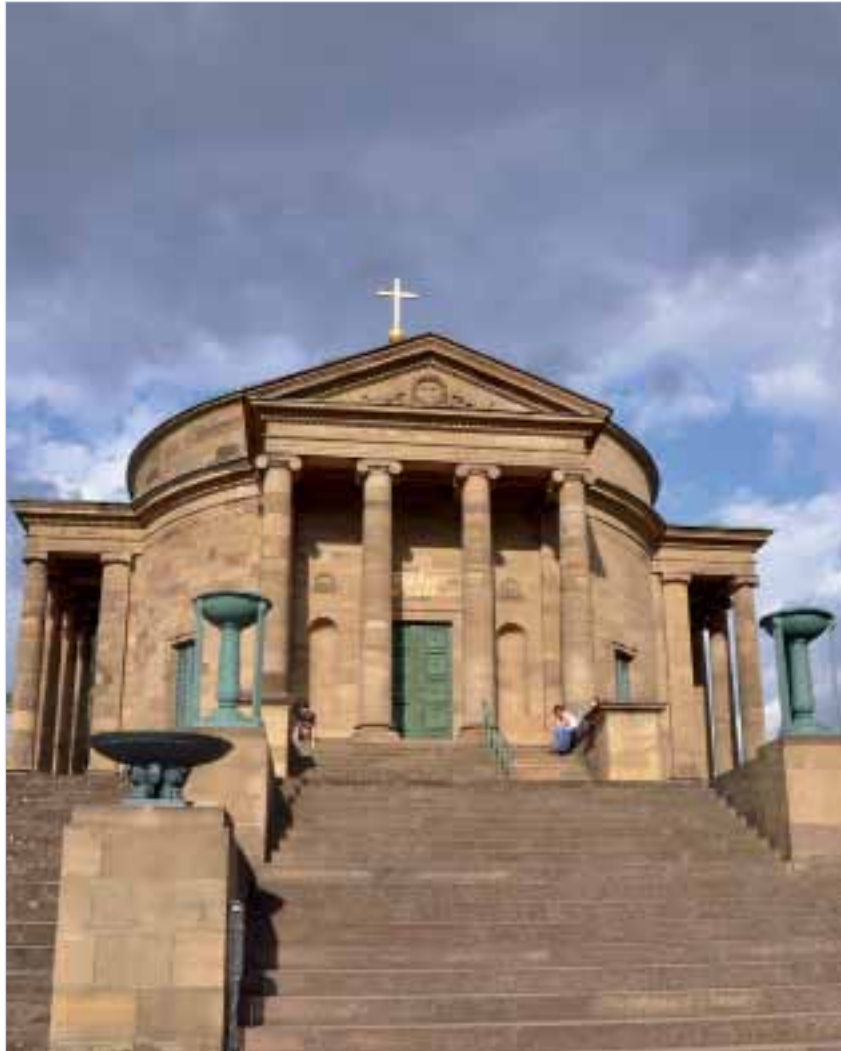
That's probably why the Württemberg fortress was one of Wilhelm's and Katharina's favorite places in Stuttgart. "They used to celebrate many fests up here," said Kauz. Legend has it that Katharina once told her husband that she would like to be buried there.

Wilhelm respected her wish.

The chapel was constructed by the Italian architect Giovanni Salucci and is, along with the Rosenstein Castle, one of the most popular landmarks of classicist architecture in the greater Stuttgart area.

Salucci, inspired by the antique Pantheon in Rome, built a rotunda to include three portals consisting of columns and stairs leading up to each portal of the chapel. The chapel features a cupola decorated with stucco rosettes, as well as columns and statues of the four apostles (St. Luke, St. Mark, St. Matthew and St. John).

Since Katharina also was a Russian duchess — her father was the Russian



The Sepulchral Chapel on Württemberg Hill stands as an eternal testament to King Wilhelm I's love for his wife Katharina, the queen of Württemberg.

Emperor Paul — she was a member of the Russian-Orthodox church.

Therefore, the chapel follows the typical design of a Russian-Orthodox church and was used by Stuttgart's Russian-Orthodox congregation up until 1890. The so-called "Iconostasis" (a wall of icons and religious paintings) separates the altar from the congregational room.

Directly beneath the cupola and in the center of the chapel is an artfully designed iron grid, which illuminates the underground mausoleum with light that reflects from the glass "opaion," the round opening at the highest point of the cupola.

Katharina was entombed in a marble sarcophagus at the chapel in 1824. In 1864, Wilhelm was entombed next to her. Wilhelm and Katharina's oldest

daughter, Marie, was entombed next to her parents in 1887.

Visitors can get to the mausoleum by using the narrow spiral stairs found right after the main entrance to the chapel. When entering the mausoleum, visitors should walk right underneath the iron grid to listen to the "mystical" echoes.

Wilhelm chose the quote from Katharina's funeral sermon to be depicted above the main entrance of the mausoleum. It reads: "Und die Liebe höret nimmer auf," or "love never ends."

That's probably why, according to the informational brochure, many people — mainly lovers — describe the chapel as one of the most romantic places in the state of Baden-Württemberg.

Kauz, the tour guide and local history enthusiast, who also knows a lot of anecdotes about Wilhelm and

Katharina, is convinced that they "truly loved each other."

For Kauz, the mausoleum and the adjacent vineyards, as well as the bird's-eye view of Stuttgart, make this place a "magical enclave" above the city.

"It's very peaceful, quiet and simply wonderful out here," he said.

The Sepulchral Chapel is located at Württembergstrasse 340, 70327, Stuttgart.

The main gate to the chapel site is open year round (not withstanding severe weather) from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For chapel hours, entrance fees and tours — all in English — visit www.grabkapelle-rotenberg.de/en/sepulchral-chapel/Home/268297.html.

Wine restaurants

The Sepulchral Chapel on Württemberg Hill is surrounded by vineyards. After visiting the chapel, visitors can hike the vineyards, and stop at some of the smaller wine restaurants in Stuttgart's city district of Rotenberg, such as the Rotenberger Weingärtle, or Weinstube Löwen and Weinstube Ochsen, both located in Uhlbach.

Celebrate Stuttgart's wine tradition

Speaking of wine ... this year's annual Stuttgarter Weindorf (Wine Village) runs through Sept. 4 at the Marktplatz and Schillerplatz in downtown Stuttgart.

The fest opens daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, and until midnight Thursday through Saturday.

The Weindorf celebrates Stuttgart's 1,000-year-old wine tradition. Visitors can sample over 500 wines from the middle Neckar region during the 12 days of the fest and enjoy Swabian meals in more than 120 lavishly decorated wine booths.

For more information, visit www.stuttgarter-weindorf.de.

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What's happening in FMWR

Launch your acting career

The Stuttgart Theatre Center will hold auditions for "Mustardseed" Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 at 6 p.m. The cast calls for four girls 12-17 years of age.

"Dracula" auditions will be held Sept. 6-7 at 7 p.m. A pre-audition workshop is scheduled for Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. Five or six men, two women and a chorus of "vampires" are needed.

For complete audition information, call 421-3258/civ. 0711-729-3258 or visit the theater center's website at www.stuttgartmwr.com.

Submit photos for All Army contest

The Family and MWR Patch Arts and Crafts Center is accepting photography entries through Oct. 1 for the All Army Photo Contest.

For more information, call 430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270.

Free classes during IMCOM's Fitness Week

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Family and MWR will offer free

group exercise classes Sept. 14-17 at all garrison fitness centers, to include Zumba, Spinning, Bodysculpt and yoga.

"The Amazing Race" returns on Sept. 17, at 10 a.m. at the Patch Fitness Center and ends at the Panzer Exchange. The race will test community members' athletic prowess, fine motor skills and creativity. Participants must be U.S. ID cardholders, ages 18 and over. A bicycle and helmet are required.

The race is open to the first 18 teams. Entry deadline is Sept. 12. Register online at www.stuttgartmwr.com.

An open-air **Zumba marathon** is also scheduled for Sept. 17 at 11 a.m. at the Exchange parking lot on Panzer Kaserne.

All Fitness Week activities are free of charge.

For more information, call the Patch Fitness Center at 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

For more Family and MWR events, visit www.stuttgartmwr.com. For updates, e-mail mwrmarketing@eur.army.mil.

photos.com



Coming to Patch Theater

Aug. 25 — Green Lantern (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Aug. 26 — Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG) 6 p.m., Fright Night (R) 9 p.m.

Aug. 27 — Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG) 4 p.m., Super 8 (PG-13) 7 p.m., Fright Night (R) 9 p.m.

Aug. 28 — Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG) 2 p.m., Super 8 (PG-13) 4 p.m., Fright Night (R) 7 p.m.

Aug. 29 — Fright Night (R) 6 p.m.

Aug. 30 — Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG) 6 p.m.

Aug. 31 — Super 8 (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Sept. 1 — Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG) 6 p.m.

Sept. 2 — Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (PG) 4 p.m., Columbiana (PG-13) 6 p.m., Bad Teacher (R) 9 p.m.

Sept. 3 — Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (PG) 4 p.m., Columbiana (PG-13) 7 p.m., Bad Teacher (R) 9 p.m.

Sept. 4 — Cars 2 (G) 2 p.m., Judy Moody and the Not Bummer



Columbia Pictures

In "Columbiana," Zoe Saldana plays a stone-cold assassin.

Summer (PG) 4 p.m., Columbiana (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sept. 5 — Columbiana (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Sept. 6 — Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (PG) 6 p.m.

Sept. 7 — Bad Teacher (R) 6 p.m.

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Skateboard competition watered down by rain

Story and photos by Joseph Mancy
Special to The Citizen

David Seegar, 16, was one of only a few skateboarders who braved the commute and threatening weather to participate in the third annual U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart German-American Skateboard Competition held Aug. 13.

This year's Child, Youth and School Services-sponsored contest was held in Pattonville, not far from the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim.

But it was a washout. Just 10 minutes into the first event — a game of S.K.A.T.E. — steady rain turned the competition into a soggy affair.

However, none of the competitors went home empty handed. The traditional method of determining victors in competition when all else fails — rock, paper, scissors — was called into play in order to equitably dole out prizes.

"The weather conditions here can be very unpredictable," said Chris Jackson, the CYS Services Sports and Fitness assistant director. "Everyone was really geared up for this competition and disappointed that we had to cancel. We look forward to offering this event again next summer and hope that the weather will be more cooperative."

William Seegar, 16, dons his protective equipment and shoes before the competition begins. Unfortunately, the skateboarding contest was canceled moments after it got underway because of rain.



The competition may have been cancelled, but no one went home empty handed. Winners were determined by a round of rock, paper, scissors. Here, William Seegar's rock breaks Samuel Otter's scissors.



Justin Green (from left), Joseph McGuire, Christopher Walter, Samuel Otter and William Seegar pose for a group shot before the competition.

SPORTS SHORTS

Stuttgart Select soccer tryouts

U.S. Youth Soccer will hold tryouts for youth ages 9-18 for the Stuttgart Select Soccer teams Aug. 27-28 at the soccer fields near the Panzer Local Training Area. The cost to try out is \$5. Bring a ball and shin guards.

For more information, e-mail stuttgart-soccer@yahoo.com.

Fall soccer clinics

U.S. Youth Soccer Europe will conduct separate fall soccer camps for boys and girls Sept. 3-5. The girls' camp will be held in Kaiserslautern and the boys' camp will be held in Bitburg. The best players at the camps will be selected for All Europe teams.

For more information, visit <http://usysa.goalline.ca>.

Get tickets for Bodybuilding, Figure Competition

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host the fourth annual Bodybuilding and Figure Competition Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Kelley Theatre on Kelley Barracks. Tickets to the International Natural Bodybuilding sanctioned event are \$10.

For more information, call the Kelley Theatre box office at 421-3055/civ. 0711-729-3055.

American Red Cross holds golf tourney Sept. 5

The Stuttgart American Red Cross will host its 25th annual golf tournament Sept. 5 at the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim. Golfers may sign up at the Stuttgart Red Cross office in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

For information, call 431-2942/civ. 07031-15-2818.

"Out & About in Baden-Württemberg" is your guide to German culture. Read the latest issue online at www.stuttgart.army.mil.

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